Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIG. 4. These sheets, which include FIG. 4., replaces the original sheets including FIG. 4.

In FIG. 4., the following steps have been amended:

Step 16:

~~If a feasible solution to the MILP model is available, update~~ Update the best known integer feasible solution in the B&C algorithm

Step 21:

Stop the B&C algorithm. ~~Go to rostering~~ and report schedules

Step 22:

Is the solution ~~feasible and~~ violating integrality constraints?

Step 36:

Store the solution if it has fewer ~~infeasibilities~~ agent shortages than the best known solution. Return to B&C algorithm

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

In the specifications, a number of paragraphs, lines, objective functions, and constraints have been amended to correct minor editorial problems. A new paragraph added to page 15 to clarify the flat text notation used when a variable or set with subscripts is itself expressed as a subscript.

I certify that the modifications to specifications are not introducing a new matter.

Claim 8 was non-existent in the original application filed on July 7, 2003. This claim has been cancelled.

In amended FIG. 3., four steps have been amended to correct minor wording problems.

In the abstract, a number of lines have been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

Per the Office Action of March 18, 2008, Claims 1-7 and 20 remain in this application. Claims 9-19 have been withdrawn as the result of the restriction requirement.

In view of the examiner's earlier restriction requirement, applicant retains the right to present claims 9-19 in a divisional application.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Sincerely yours,

Turgut Aykin, Ph.D.
Office: (732) 583-1919